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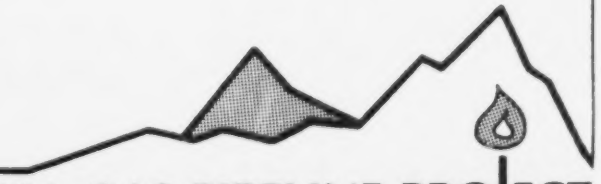

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

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PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

FOR THE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PIPELINE PROJECT

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Office of Special Projects
Denver, Colorado

January 2, 1981

READEX FICHE best copy available

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INTRODUCTION

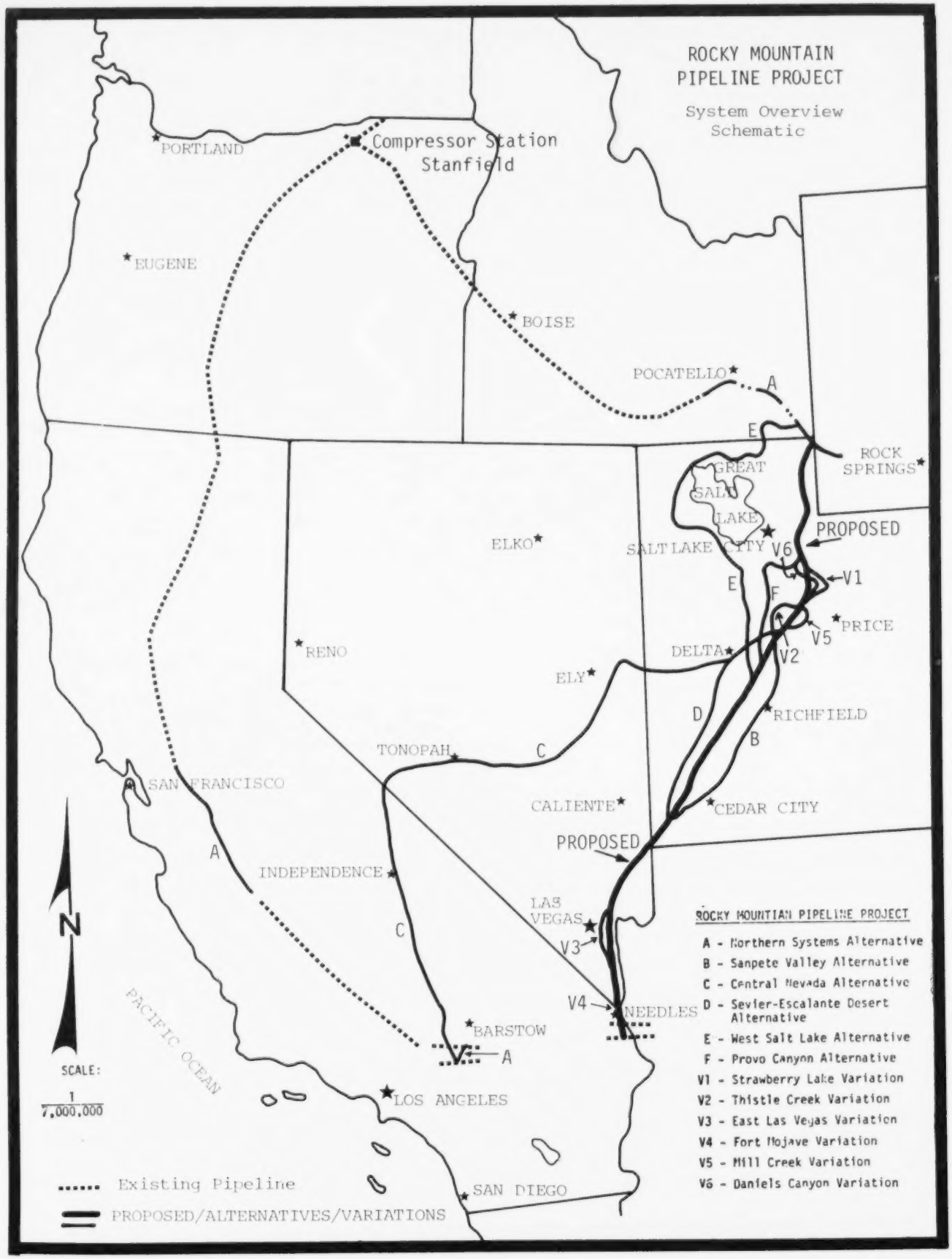
The Rocky Mountain Pipeline Company (formed by a general partnership of Pacific Gas Transmission Company, El Paso Natural Gas Company, Pacific Interstate Transmission Company, and Northwest Pipeline Corporation) is proposing to construct and operate an interstate natural gas pipeline system known as the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project (RMPP). The system would be 610 miles in length, and would carry natural gas from sources in the central Rocky Mountain Region to consumers in California, Utah, and Nevada (see Map 1).

Before the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Company can build the pipeline system, they must receive several required federal permits and approvals. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must issue a Certificate of Public Necessity and Convenience to the company. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in consultation with the U.S. Forest Service must also issue rights-of-way to enable the company to construct and operate the pipeline across approximately 350 miles of public land in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must approve any crossings the pipeline would make on navigable streams and waterways.

Anytime the federal government considers approving or disapproving significant actions on areas in its jurisdiction, an environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared. EISs help federal officials make decisions by presenting sound information on the pros and cons of a proposed project. BLM and FERC are designated joint lead agencies for preparing the EIS on the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project. The U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs will also contribute information and time in the preparation of the EIS as part of their roles as "cooperating agencies."

The first step in preparing an EIS is called "scoping." The scope of an EIS is the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be included in the document. The purpose of scoping is to determine the significant issues related to a proposed action which should be included in the EIS. Scoping is designed to reduce some of the past inefficiencies associated with EIS preparation. Its basic goal is to make environmental impact statements more meaningful and useful to persons in the federal government who must make decisions on the proposal, as well as to the people who may be affected by approval or disapproval of the proposal or its alternatives.

This booklet reports on the results of this "scoping process" for the Rocky Mountain Pipeline EIS. Written and oral input received from various citizens and federal, state, and local agencies are listed and summarized. Several issues were raised that will contribute to the content of the EIS.


ROCKY MOUNTAIN
PIPELINE PROJECT
System Overview
Schematic
PORTLAND
Compressor Station
Stanfield
EUGENE
BOISE
POCATELLO
A
E
ROCK
SPRINGS
GREAT
SALT
LAKE
SALT LAKE CITY
V6
PROPOSED
V1
ELKO
E
F
PRICE
V5
RENO
DELTA
V2
ELY
D
RICHFIELD
B
TONOPAH
C
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIENTE
CEDAR CITY
PROPOSED
A
INDEPENDENCE
LAS
VEGAS
C
V3
V4
NEEDLES
BARSTOW
A
PACIFIC OCEAN
N
SCALE:
1
7,000,000
LOS ANGELES
SAN DIEGO
Existing Pipeline
PROPOSED/ALTERNATIVES/VARIATIONS
ROCKY MOUNTIAN PIPELINE PROJECT
A - Northern Systems Alternative
B - Sanpete Valley Alternative
C - Central Nevada Alternative
D - Sevier-Escalante Desert Alternative
E - West Salt Lake Alternative
F - Provo Canyon Alternative
V1 - Strawberry Lake Variation
V2 - Thistle Creek Variation
V3 - East Las Vegas Variation
V4 - Fort Mojave Variation
V5 - Mill Creek Variation
V6 - Daniels Canyon Variation

Map 1

PURPOSE OF SESSIONS

Interested citizens, agencies, and groups were invited to participate in the EIS scoping process through meetings and written input. People were asked to identify major issues associated with the proposed natural gas pipeline that should be examined in the EIS. When possible, each person was asked to rate the relative importance of each issue. The object was not to seek support or opposition to the project, but rather to hear the concerns of interested persons for consideration in the EIS.

STRUCTURE OF SESSIONS

PLANNING

The process of identifying issues for the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project EIS began in August 1980. Twelve federal, state, and public meetings were held.

Attendence at each meeting varied greatly with the location. Total attendance for all scoping/briefing meetings was 169 persons with an average of 14 people at each meeting. See Table 1 for more specific figures.

Federal Briefing

Federal agency representatives in Washington, D.C., were invited to participate in a briefing/scoping session on the proposed natural gas pipeline and EIS.

State Briefings

Governors' offices in the four states crossed by the proposed pipeline (Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California) were contacted and briefed on the pipeline project and the upcoming EIS. The representatives of the various state agencies in attendence were also invited to identify potential issues to be addressed in the EIS.

Public Meetings

The locations for the seven public scoping meetings were decided with suggestions from federal and state agencies in the affected region.

News releases announcing public meeting dates, times, and places were sent to several television and radio stations and newspapers. Information packages explaining the proposed pipeline project and showing the general location of the Proposed Action and alternatives were also sent to these media contacts. In addition, information packages were sent to persons and groups listed on mailing lists provided by local Bureau of Land Management offices.

TABLE 1

MEETING LOCATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

			Number of Attendees
Federal Briefing			
August 26, 1980	Washington, D.C.	U.S. Department of the Interior Building	13
State Briefings			
September 5, 1980	Carson City, NV	201 South Fall St.	3
September 8, 1980	Cheyenne, WY	Hathaway Auditorium	4
September 9, 1980	Salt Lake City, UT	State Capitol Building	22
September 11, 1980	Sacramento, CA	1400 South 10th St.	4
Public Meetings			
September 15, 1980	Salt Lake City, UT	University Club Building	12
September 16, 1980	Cedar City, UT	Small Ballroom Southern State College	17
September 17, 1980	Las Vegas, NV	Biloxi Room Showboat Hotel	28
September 18, 1980	Needles, CA	Civic Center Gym	16
October 14, 1980	Lone Pine, CA	Lone Pine Town Hall	37
October 15, 1980	Tonopah, NV	Tonopah Convention Center	0
October 16, 1980	Ely, NV	Ely Grade School	13

MEETING FORMAT

Federal Briefing

The Washington, D.C. federal briefing began with a discussion of the various agency responsibilities for the EIS. The compressed schedule for completion of the document was presented and shown to each agency representative for information. Then, the proposed pipeline project was described and attendees were invited to raise issues for analysis in the forthcoming EIS.

State Briefings

The four state briefings each began with a discussion of the EIS and schedule. In addition, a briefing on the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project proposal was given. After this briefing, various state agency representatives were invited to suggest issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the EIS. Another purpose of these sessions was to establish a working relationship with each assigned state government liaison contact and agree on data collection procedures.

Public Meetings

Each of the public scoping meetings began with an introduction to the way the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project EIS was going to be prepared. The role of the Bureau of Land Management Office of Special Projects was explained. A description of the various types of agency participation was outlined; specifying the joint preparation responsibililty of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and of the Bureau of Land Management, and the cooperating participation by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Meeting attendees were told of the purpose and goals of the meeting. The requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 were explained. "Scoping," as outlined in the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations, was also defined for all meeting attendees.

Then, a representative from one of the participating companies (Pacific Gas Transmission Company) gave a presentation of the proposed project in four of the meetings. A Bureau of Land Management spokesperson described the project in the last three meetings. The formal part of all seven meetings was concluded with an identification of preliminary alternatives to the Proposed Action.

After hearing about the Proposed Action and various alternatives, audiences were encouraged to identify their concerns relating to the social, economic, and natural environment. General and site-specific issues were raised. Once all issues had been brought up, attendees were asked to list the first five issues they thought were most important to them (in order of priority from first to fifth) on work sheets.

RESULTS OF SCOPING

Issues identified by each meeting participant and through written input have been used to help determine the scope of the EIS. The extent each social, economic, and natural resource will be emphasized and analyzed in the EIS was determined partly by each of the concerns raised by scoping participants.

MEETINGS/BRIEFINGS

Table 2 displays the number of issues identitifed at each meeting. Pages11 through 23 list issues raised at each meeting and priorities for those issues raised at public scoping meetings.

Appendix A lists all attendees for each scoping meeting.

TABLE 2

MEETING PARTICIPATION

Meeting Location	Number of Attendees	Number of Work-sheets received	Number of Work Groups	Total Number of Issues Identified
Washington, D.C.	13	N/A	N/A	5
Carson City, NV	3	N/A	N/A	6
Cheyenne, WY	4	N/A	N/A	4
Salt Lake City, UT	22	N/A	N/A	7
Sacramento, CA	4	N/A	N/A	6
Salt Lake City, UT	12	2	N/A	6
Cedar City, UT	17	5	N/A	15
Las Vegas, NV	28	6	2	17
Needles, CA	16	0	N/A	8
Lone Pine, CA	37	29	N/A	32
Tonopah, NV	0	0	0	0
Ely, NV	13	7	N/A	14

N/A = not applicable to that particular meeting.

FEDERAL BRIEFING

Washington, D.C. (August 26, 1980)

Several representatives from various federal agencies attended. A briefing on the description of the project was given and each agency raised questions and issues.

The following issues were identified for consideration in the EIS:

Issue

- Impacts and conflicts resulting from transportation of Alaskan gas through the Rocky Mountain Pipeline or through Northwest Pipeline's existing facilities.
- Needs to contact pertinent agencies for input in the EIS, such as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regions and the Western Area Power Administration
- Consideration of the use of existing transmission corridors in Southern Nevada and resulting congested corridor-related impacts
- Determination of the ownership of the gas being transported by the proposed pipeline - can the line carry gas from all markets or must it be restricted to carrying only gas owned by the participating companies?
- Impacts to the desert tortoise listed as a Threatened and Endangered Species, especially in the Beaver Dam Wash area in Utah.

STATE BRIEFINGS

Carson City, Nevada (September 5, 1980)

Various state agency representatives attended. The representatives were given a presentation on the proposed project. As a result of the briefing, the following issues were raised:

Issue

- Consideration of an alternative pipeline route across central Nevada for a possible supply source for Tonopah residents as their current natural gas supplies (propane) are being "bottled in" at high cost.
- Evaluation of corrosion problems that may occur when the pipeline encounters considerable electrical charges by coming in close contact to existing and proposed transmission lines in the Las Vegas - Henderson corridor. Shielding of the pipe for 25-30 miles should be considered to avoid or minimize this conflict.

- o Consideration of the possible land ownership change in Eldorado Valley. An old law passed in the 1950s authorized a grant of land to the State of Nevada. This case is still pending action, but when acted upon, would transfer BLM administered land to the State of Nevada in the Eldorado Valley, south Las Vegas.

- o Concern over having several transmission/pipeline corridors crossing the State of Nevada. Nevada's preference would be to site the pipeline within existing established corridors rather than creating a new corridor across central Nevada.

- o Consideration of Indian concerns on the area northeast of Las Vegas.

- o Request for a public scoping in Tonopah, Nevada.

Cheyenne, Wyoming (September 8, 1980)

Several state agency representatives attended the meeting. A presentation on the project was given to the attendees. The following questions/issues were raised:

Issue

- o Evaluation and consideration of paleontological and archaeological values such as fossils and firepits in the area near Kemmerer, Wyoming.

- o Impacts stemming from the limited work force supply available for the Rocky Mountain Pipeline project as a result of competition for the work force by a number of projects in Evanston and Rock Springs, Wyoming.

- o Consideration of any conflicts or impacts to Fort Bridger State Historic Park.

- o Impacts to irrigation activities during construction of the pipeline and associated facilities.

- o The requirement of several state air quality and waste water permits prior to construction.

Salt Lake City, Utah (September 9, 1980)

Members from the Governor's Environmental Coordinating Committee were in attendance. These persons raised several important issues, including:

Issue

- o Cumulative impacts of the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project and the following existing and proposed projects in the state:

  Cement plant in Millard County near Delta, Utah
  MAPCO Pipeline Project
  White Pines Powerplant
  Roosevelt Hot Springs Geothermal Project north of Milford, Utah
  Geothermal planned use in Millard/Beaver Counties near the intersection of I-15 and I-70.
  Aluminum operations in Beaver County
  MX Missile System
  Allen-Warner Valley Energy System

- o Impacts to wildlife (e.g., sage grouse) with emphasis on those species listed on the state "sensitive species list."

- o Potential impacts to state wildlife refuges near Thistle, Utah, which may require granting of a right-of-way permit from the State Wildlife Resources Board.

- o Effects of geotechnical faults and landslides on the pipeline.

- o Impacts to agricultural activities (irrigation).

- o Consideration and evaluation of cultural resource values.

Sacramento, California (September 11, 1980)

Many state and federal agencies were represented. The following issues were raised for consideration in the EIS:

Issue

- o Cumulative impacts of this project and several other projects, such as:

  Cherokee - liquid gas proposal starting near Sage, Wyoming
  Conoco's proposal
  Proposed Methanol facilities near Rio Blanco in Moffat, Colorado
  California east-west oil pipeline
  Mountain Fuels proposal near Emery, Utah
  Harry Allen coal slurry pipeline, if extended to Long Beach for export to Japan.

- o Concern over consideration of routing the pipeline through Owens Valley as it could encourage future energy-related projects in this area. Impacts to a wilderness study area, the Pacific Coast Trail, and other resources in Owens Valley. Air quality impacts stemming from siting a compressor station in Inyo County.

- o Concern over competition of other transportation projects for the natural gas supplies (Trailblazer project).

- Point of information that Southern California would be able to receive 1/12 of its needed gas supply from this project at initial capacity and 1/6 of its needs at full capacity.

- Consideration of using co-generation in association with this project.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Salt Lake City, Utah (September 15, 1980)

A few persons with various interests attended the meeting. Two persons identified and ranked the following issues:

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Socioeconomic impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed pipeline.	1					1
Cumulative impacts in relation with other projects such as Intermountain Power Project and housing projects in Millard County.						2
Stream crossings, whether the pipe would be buried or not, and what would the impact be on water quality.	1	1				
Disturbance on parks and recreation areas		1				1
Noise impacts to wildlife from compressor stations located in the Heber and Kamas areas						2
Pollutants from compressor fumes upon wildlife habitats (browse & water). Sensitive deer habitat exists in the Heber-Kamas area.						2
Erosion problems as a result of construction on hillsides and its impact on small streams.						2

Cedar City, Utah (September 16, 1980)

Several interested persons attended this meeting. Five persons brought up important issues for inclusion in the EIS such as:

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Impacts to wilderness areas	1					4
Problems and resulting impacts from ruptures and spills caused by unstable geologic phenomena such as faulting.		1	1			3

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Concerns over hazards and accidents as a result of placing the pipeline near several transmission lines in one single corridor.			1			4
Ensuring that data collection and analysis is equal between the Proposed Action and alternatives.	1			2		2
Beneficial impacts to communities that may gain a new natural gas supply.	1	1			1	2
Reducing impacts to wildlife habitat (especially deer winter ranges near Scipio Summit and New Castle) by formulation of mitigation measures.	1	1				3
Consideration of the alternative route through Delta, Utah, and west through central Nevada.		1				4
Conflicts and impacts to the critical desert tortoise habitats in southwestern Utah.					1	4
Impacts to cultural and historic resources such as the Meadow Massacre Historical Site and the Old Spanish Trail.			1	1	1	2
Consideration of conflicts or compatibilities with other planned or existing projects such as Intermountain Power Project, Allen-Warner Valley Energy System, and the MX Missile System.	1		1			3
Revegetation success for visual and erosion-control purposes.						5
Impacts to communities as a result of construction and operation workforces. Importance of planning coordination with local governments to prepare for impacts.						5
Relation of the cost for obtaining the right-of-way (depending on width) and constructing the pipeline to the rate structure for the natural gas.						5

Issue	Number of persons rating issues as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Consideration of an alternative routing nearer to communities needing natural gas so that rates may be cheaper.						5
Possible conflicts with geothermal areas such as Roosevelt Hot Springs.						5

Las Vegas, Nevada (September 17, 1980)

Several interested persons and groups attended the meeting. Sixteen persons raised important issues for consideration in the EIS, including:

Issue	Number of persons rating issues as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Impacts on land use plans and development proposals of local communities with particular attention to planned open space and parks (proposed Rainbow Gardens National Monument) near Eldorado, Henderson, and the Las Vegas Wash area.	9	1	4		1	1
Problems arising from the concentration of several utility lines and pipelines within one corridor through the Las Vegas area - possibility of hazards and catastrophes. Effects of erosion and flooding.	1	12			1	2
Beneficial impacts to the State of Nevada and Las Vegas.	5		8			3
Evaluation and consideration of other alternatives than the Las Vegas area.				8		8
Evaluation and modification of proposed route through the Las Vegas area to miss sensitive areas such as Las Vegas Wash and Proposed Rainbow Gardens National Monument.				4		12
Full and equal evaluation of all alternatives and the Proposed Action.		1	1			14

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five:					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Analysis of impacts resulting from location of the pipeline near the nuclear storage area at the Lake Mead Base (Nellis Air Force Base).		1	1			14
Evaluation of impacts resulting from presence of a volatile substance in a congested urban area.					1	15
Consideration of an alternative route west of Glendale in an existing powerline corridor that will avoid many planned housing and business expansions.	1					15
Evaluation of the advantage of using low cost federal rights-of-way to increase possible markets in California, Nevada, and Utah.						16
Consideration of the use of the Las Vegas corridor without any benefits to the local area.						16
Problems and impacts of increased erosion and flash flood potential in the foothills.						16
Consideration of alternate routes that are more efficient and direct, i.e., looking at the use of private and federal lands equally.						16
Impacts to proposed or potential wilderness areas.						16
Impacts to threatened and endangered species such as the moapa dace and desert tortoise.						16
Consideration of use of only public land for possible routing in the Glendale area.						16
Evaluation of the overall cost of constructing and operating the pipeline versus the cost per foot for construction and operation.						16

Needles, California (September 18, 1980)

The following items were provided by four persons for consideration and study in the EIS:

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Impacts to local communities as a result of influx of workers, i.e., demand for housing, local services, etc.	2				1	1
Enforcement of compliance with cultural resource laws and regulations.	1					3
Problems of spread of Valley Fever among workers and residents as a result of construction and soil disturbance.		2				2
Consideration of replacing cacti species uprooted during construction back in the right-of-way or allowing discarded plants to be available for public use following construction.		1		1		2
Impacts upon archaeological resources.			1		1	2
Evaluation of possible hazards and accidents at highway and railroad crossings.				1		3
Consideration of historic sites such as Chinese railroad camps.			1			3
Impact of noise from compressor stations.						4

Lone Pine, California (October 14, 1980)

Twenty-nine citizens provided the following issues for study in the EIS:

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Socioeconomic benefits to local communties such as tax revenues and available natural gas supply	12	5	1	1		10
Impacts to local employment (adverse and beneficial)	5	4	1			19
Impacts to local propane supply companies		1	1	1		26
Induced growth in Owens Valley and Los Angeles Basin creating more need for energy and resources (water)	1	1	2	2	1	22
Conflicts, compatibilities with local, state, and federal land use plans			1	3	1	24
Consideration of small towns during impact analysis	1	2	3	1	1	21
Support for alternative routing through Owens Valley	1	1		1	1	25
Route modifications away from heavily populated areas. Impacts and hazards from presence of volatile substance in urban area (and near nuclear base near Las Vegas)		2	3			24
Waste material disposal and borrow material sites	1		1	2	3	22
Impacts of routing through Westgaard Pass (highway conflicts, scenic quality, thin canyon)		1	1			27
Cultural resource impacts (historic, prehistoric, archaeological, and Native American sacred sites)	1	2	3	4	1	18

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Impacts to mining claims		1		1	1	26
Conflicts, compatibilities with projects and transportation systems such as Los Angeles Department of Water and Power aqueducts, highways, transmission lines, powerlines, railroads				1	5	23
Impacts to the Olancha/Cartego area		1	3	1	1	23
Aesthetic impacts both during and after construction	1	3	1	1	4	19
Impacts to wildlife and Threatened and Endangered Species (tule elk, mohave squirrel, desert tortoise). Procedures for mitigation of such impacts	1	3	2	2	1	20
Impacts to vegetation and potential for successful restoration and revegetation to reduce wind and water erosion	1	3	2		1	22
Impacts to air quality from construction activities and compressor stations		4	1	1	1	22
Potential hazard as a result of earthquakes and faults	1	5	4		1	18
Potential hazards as a result of local volcanic activity		1	4	2	1	21
Ruptures and breaks and resulting fires due to transportation of volatile substance under high pressure	2					27
Hazards from sonic booms	1					28
Hazards from construction equipment and vehicles near transportation routes			1			28
Location of maintenance bases, access road needs, cleaning facilities, and compressor stations			1	1	3	24

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Alternative uses for pipeline (future conversions)			1		2	26
Use of existing systems versus building new pipeline	2					27
Economic issues: cost of right-of-way (life expectancy), impacts from compressor stations	1		2	3		23
General construction impacts						29
Alternative corridor through Death Valley					1	28
Impacts to water quality		2				27
Quality of natural gas being transported					1	28
Wilderness issues			1	1		27

Tonopah, Nevada (October 15, 1980)

There was no public citizen attendance at this meeting.

Ely, Nevada (October 16, 1980)

A few interested citizens attended this meeting. Seven persons identified the following issues for consideration

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five: 1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Rerouting of alternative to avoid small canyons (Murry Canyon), watersheds, and earthquake zone along east side of Sierra Nevada mountains. Study north routing above Ely through Tonopah and south to Baker and southern California.	3	1		1		2
Economic impact on local community-tax revenues	3				1	3
Supply of natural gas to local residents		1	1			5

Issue	Number of persons rating issue as priority number one through five:					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or less
Possibility of hooking into existing lines		1	1			5
Study cost of using propane versus natural gas by local residents	1	3				3
Use of public land versus private land (acreage difference)					1	6
Cost difference between alternatives						7
Impacts to local employment as a result of construction and operation			1			6
Impacts to political environment						7
Visual and aesthetic impacts				1	1	5
Revegetation success		1		2		4
No significant issues apparent	1					6
Route alternative farther from highway where revegetation success is better			1			6
			1			6
Impacts on water						7

WRITTEN INPUT

Some agencies, local groups, and citizens sent letters outlining issues that need to be considered in the forthcoming EIS.

The following issues were raised by these entities for consideration in the EIS.

Issue

- Use of existing systems to transport natural gas, rather than building new pipeline across southern Nevada
- Full evaluation of Central Nevada Alternative
- Need for erosion control procedures (use of barriers, etc.) if pipeline is to cross the Las Vegas Wash
- Demonstrated cost-benefit of the Proposed Action (across Eldorado Valley, Nevada) versus other alternatives
- Study of aligning the Proposed Action immediately adjacent to Southwest Gas Company's existing line through Eldorado Valley to minimize expansion of the utility corridor
- Amount and location of private land involved with Proposed Action and alternatives
- Potential for occurence of Valley Fever spores in soil
- Fugitive dust effects on human receptors
- Biotic impacts
- Socioeconomic impacts of construction in Needles region
- Traffic disruption during construction
- Effects on archaeological sites
- Impact on the Las Vegas Wash and Rainbow Gardens Master Plan
- Examination of alternatives to avoid Las Vegas Wash and Rainbow Gardens
- Financial contribution to development of Las Vegas Wash and Rainbow Gardens proposed wetland park as mitigation
- Minimizing of stream crossings and surface disturbance by careful planning and route selection
- Avoidance of any National Parks and other environmentally sensitive areas

Issue

- Impacts as a result of construction
- Examination of adequate mitigation measures including procedures to control surface water runoff and noise and air emmissions
- Public safety concerns during operation and maintenance of the pipeline
- The suitability or limitations of the soils for the Proposed Action
- Provisions for control of errosion and management of water during construction
- Potential for soil and water conservation management measures on project lands, rights-of-way, access roads, and borrow areas
- The effect of water discharges from projects lands or rights-of-way onto other properties
- The effects of disruption of the natural drainage patterns and severance of private land units
- The impact on existing soil and water conservation management systems
- Impacts on prime and unique farmland
- Impacts on ecosystems
- Impacts on Soil Conservation Service assisted projects
- Examination of emmissions from compressor station equipment operation such as gas turbines, valves, and compressor seals, and examination of emmissions as a result of fuel consumption by turbines
- Need for applicable air quality permits and a description of the pertinent conditions to be met for each permit
- Impacts stemming from additional 413 to 800 million cubic feet per day of natural gas entering into California's utility system and causing increased loads on and emmissions from existing equipment (compressor stations)
- Indirect impact of project on California's air quality (i.e., increased emmissions from new users of this additional gas or decreased emmissions if this gas replaces other fuel types)
- Placement of the pipeline within existing designated utility corridors
- Alignment of the proposed pipeline to avoid as much private land as possible

Issue

- Opposition to the pipeline being routed over any Glendale, Nevada property
- Concern over restriction of entry onto public lands through Owens Valley, California with construction of the Central Nevada Alternative
- Possibility of an alternative routing of the pipeline across military land in California
- Hazards as a result of routing pipeline next to Highway 395 in Owens Valley such as increased traffic and earthquakes and sonic booms causing ruptures
- Routing of pipeline away from populated areas to the Death Valley area with smaller feeder lines leading to Owens Valley
- Support for the Central Nevada Alternative through Inyo County, California
- Support for the Proposed Action through Iron County, Utah and examination of allowing Iron County residents to use part of the transported natural gas as participating entities

SCOPE OF EIS, ANALYSIS OF ISSUES

The scope of the Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project EIS was derived from issues and priorities determined at the twelve scoping meetings and from preliminary research done by the EIS preparers (resource specialists from the Bureau of Land Management, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs). Letters identifying additional concerns were also considered.

The EIS will analyze the impacts of transporting the natural gas from a supply source to the point of delivery to consumers. Aside from the companies' Proposed Action, the EIS will also analyze alternate ways to achieve this goal, including a Northern Systems Alternative, Sanpete Vally Alternative, Central Nevada Alternative, Sevier-Escalante Desert Alternative, West Salt Lake Alternative, Provo Canyon Alternative, Strawberry Reservoir Variation, Thistle Creek Variation, East Las Vegas Variation, Fort Mojave Variation, Mill Creek Variation, and Daniels Canyon Variation (see Map 1). In addition, the EIS will also explore the results and implications of not building the pipeline (No Action) and using other energy technologies (Energy Alternatives).

Within each of these options, the EIS will cover construction, operation, maintenance, and termination phases. Various components of the project to be analyzed will be the pipeline, compressor stations, maintenance bases, meter stations, communications needs, and other associated facilities.

Impacts in ten issue topic will be analyzed. The issue topics are: socioeconomics, health and safety, land use, wildlife and vegetation, project and EIS-related, air quality and noise, cultural resources, visual resources, geology and soils, and water resources. The emphasis within each topic is discussed below:

SOCIOECONOMICS

Analysis of socioeconomic effects will receive major emphasis in the EIS. Effects during construction and during operation and maintenance of the proposed project will be particularly highlighted. Benefits to local communities along the proposed route and alternatives including tax revenues, increased employment opportunities, and other increased revenues will be analyzed. The EIS will not analyze the effects of supplying local communities with natural gas because the involved federal agencies do not have jurisdiction to identify additional consumers. (This would be a function of the private market.)

Non-benefits to local communities, particularly small towns with limited resources, will be studied with specific emphasis on impacts from increased population on various infrastructure (streets, sewer systems, housing, health services).

Cumulative impacts to the involved region as a result of several projects being constructed and operated in the same area (MX missile system and Intermountain Power Project) will be highlighted.

The following socioeconomic impacts and concerns will be treated to a lesser degree:

- o induced growth as a result of this project
- o overall costs to gas consumers
- o costs of building the pipeline (obtaining the right-of-way) and how it relates to rate structures.

Overall socioeconomic impacts will be especially analyzed in the following sensitive areas:

1. Las Vegas, Nevada
2. Delta, Utah
3. Olancha/Cartego, California
4. Ely, Nevada

Impacts and effects to Native Americans will also be treated in the EIS. General socioeconomic impacts and effects to Native American value systems will be given a medium emphasis. Possible impacts to sacred religous sites will be addressed according to pertinent laws and regulations. The potential extension of the Moapa Reservation across the proposed route will also be analyzed as to resultant impacts.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Accidents and impacts as a result of ruptures and breakages caused by geologic hazards (earthquakes, faults, volcanic activity) will be given major emphasis. Both effects to the social and natural environment will be discussed in the EIS. Hazards as a result of the closeness of the pipeline to urban areas and other powerlines and pipelines will also be highlighted in the EIS.

Possible accidents or hazards from construction activities near transportation routes will also be considered. In addition, the potential for spread of Valley Fever as a result of soil disturbance will be given emphasis in southern desert-like areas.

LAND USE

1. Transportation Networks - Conflicts with existing and proposed transmission lines and pipelines is a significant issue for this EIS. Congested corridor-related impacts will be given major emphasis particularly in the Las Vegas area. Compatibilities between powerlines and pipelines will be fully explored in this EIS. Construction activities affecting highways and railroads (including crossings), are not anticipated to cause significant problems. However, during analysis of impacts if any major conflicts arise, these will be highlighted in the EIS.

2. Land Use Plans - Conflicts with all local, state, and federal plans (including master plans) will receive major emphasis in the EIS. Particular attention will be given to conflict areas such as the proposed expansion of Henderson, Nevada; the Las Vegas Wash Master Plan; and the California Desert Conservation Area planned utility corridors.

3. Wilderness - Special emphasis will be given to any impacts to U.S. Forest Service existing wilderness and RARE II units and to any Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Areas, as required by pertinent federal regulations.

4. Parks and Recreation - Impacts to any local and state parks and recreation areas will be highlighted. Any conflicts to specific recreation facilities (campgrounds) and planned activities (off-road recreation vehicle races) will be given average treatment. Impacts to dispersed recreation (hunting and rockhounding) will be an insignificant issue with a linear pipeline project and thus will be treated to a lesser degree.

5. Agriculture - Any impacts to existing agricultural activities will be highlighted where obvious conflicts will occur such as near Delta, Utah. Requirements of pertinent laws and regulations (Prime and Unique Farmlands) will be met in the EIS by generic discussion and proposed mitigation measures.

WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION

Effects to Threatened and Endangered or other significant wildlife and plant species (mohave squirrel, tule elk, desert tortoise) will be given very high priority in the EIS. Overall discussion of wildlife and vegetation will be general with the following sensitive areas highlighted:

- Impacts to deer, antelope, and elk utilizing winter ranges. Appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed.

- Impacts to aquatic species as a result stream crossings by the pipelines. Requirements of various agency permits will be met.

- Impacts to areas where revegetation is slow and difficult.

- Impacts to special vegetated areas such as riparian vegetation, harvestable resources, and unique vegetation species (joshua tree).

An overall reclamation plan will be prepared as part of the Proposed Action to guide revegetation and restoration of the pipeline right-of-way. This plan should cover most vegetation issues.

PROJECT, EIS-RELATED ISSUES

Any conflicts between this project and other existing and proposed projects (MX Missile System, Tonopah Molybdenum mine, other powerplant projects, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power aquaduct system) will receive major emphasis in the EIS.

The EIS will respond to the following concerns as identified in the scoping meetings:

1. All alternatives to the Proposed Action will be given substantial treatment when analyzing impacts and mitigation, as required by the Council on Environmental Quality and the National Environmental Policy Act.

2. The EIS will also analyze all impacts of the proposed and alternate routes, regardless of private, state, or federal land.

3. The need for the project will be analyzed as part of the EIS.

4. The use and competition of other transportation modes for the natural gas will also be analyzed as part of the EIS process.

5. The EIS will identify the potential locations of all related facilities (compressor stations, maintenance bases).

6. The EIS will determine the need for waste material disposal sites and borrow material sites as well as the various quantities of materials. However, specific, exact locations will not be defined. The involved landowner or administrator will be responsible for dictating locations and methods for disposal of wastes or utilization of borrow material.

7. The economics of the Proposed Action and alternatives including cost-benefit analysis will be studied while making the decision on the project. However, this information will not be included in the EIS.

AIR QUALITY AND NOISE

Impacts to air quality will be given general treatment in the EIS. An air quality computer model will be run to determine whether the compressor stations will require a Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit from the Environment Protection Agency. Any potential impacts to Class I areas within 100 miles of the projects will be highlighted in the EIS. Fugitive dust and resulting impacts during and after construction (wind erosion) will be generally discussed in the EIS. Noise impacts from construction activities and compressor stations will be briefly treated in the EIS.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

An agreement (Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement) will be developed between the Bureau of Land Management, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the various State Historic Preservation Offices. This agreement will insure that cultural resources (historic sites and trails and archaeological resources) are protected and any impacts are adequately mitigated. Any sensitive cultural sites along the proposed or alternative routes will be highlighted in the EIS.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Aesthetic impacts will be highlighted in the EIS in critical areas of:

1. steep terrain
2. thicker, taller vegetation
3. slow revegetation and restoration success

Specific areas where there are sensitive viewing points will also be emphasized, including:

1. Nephi, Utah
2. Strawberry Reservoir
3. Las Vegas Wash
4. Rainbow Gardens National Monument

Overall aesthetic impacts during and after construction will be treated generally.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Impacts to soils will be given an overall, general treatment. Site-specific sensitive areas with soil problems will be highlighted in the EIS. Erosion-control procedures will be incorporated as part of the reclamation plan.

The geology and topography along the proposed and alternate routes will be given a general overview. Geologic hazards (earthquakes, faults, landslides, subsidence) along the project area will be given special emphasis in the EIS.

WATER RESOURCES

Water resources will be given minor emphasis in the EIS. Impacts as a result of any stream crossings will be highlighted with specific attention towards various agency permitting requirements and adequate mitigation measures. Any floodplain impacts will be handled in a general way. Floodplains will not be delineated. Locations of any structures associated with this project will be checked to see if they lie in a floodplain and resultant impacts assessed. Any impacts to ground water will be insignficant and given minor emphasis.

APPENDIX A - LIST OF MEETING ATTENDEES

Washington, D.C. August 26, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dennis Miller	Federal Highway Administration
Don Mitchell	Bureau of Land Management
Frank McGilvrey	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kevin Kilcullen	Bureau of Land Management
Larry Kline	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Al Jonez	Water and Power Resources Service
Tobey Pierce	Environmental Protection Agency
Carol Dawkins	Interstate Commerce Commission
Robert Maestro	Interstate Commerce Commission
Bradley Johnson	Bureau of Mines
Carolina Key	Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Peter Niebauer	Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Land & Water Resources
Bob Tracey	U.S. Forest Service

Carson City, Nevada September 5, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jac Shaw	State of Nevada, liaison contact
Mike Nolan	State of Nevada, state planning coordinator
Wendell D. McCurry	State of Nevada, Department of Environmental Protection

Cheyenne, Wyoming September 8, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Collin Fallat	State of Wyoming, liaison contact
Dale S. Hoffman	State of Wyoming, Department of Economic Planning & Development
Billie Lundberg	State of Wyoming, Department of Agriculture
Paul Schwieger	State of Wyoming, Engineers Office

Salt Lake City, Utah September 9, 1980

Members from Governor Matheson's Environmental Coordinating Committee:

NAME	EXPERTISE
Jim Bulter	State liaison contact
Allen Henrie	Agriculture
Chris Beck	Community Development
Howard Bird	Economic & Industrial Development
Buz Hunt	Energy

Salt Lake City, Utah September 9, 1980 (cont'd)

Members from Governor Matheson's Environmental Coordinating Committee:

Bruce M. Kaliser	Geological & Mineral Survey
Bill Lund	Geological & Mineral Survey
Dennis R. Dalley	Environmental Health
Wilson Martin	History
Jim Dykamn	History
Milo A. Barney	Natural Resources
Ronald W. Daniels	Oil, Gas, & Mining
Ken Travous	Parks and Recreation
Dr. James Bunger	Science Advisor
Karl Kappe	State Lands & Forestry
Gene Sturzenegger	Transportation
Sherman Jensen	Transportation Environmental Council
Deloy Peterson	Transportation Planning
Barry Saunders	Water Resources
Earl M. Staker	Water Rights
Earl Sparks	Wildlife Resources
Kent Briggs	Governor's Office

Sacramento, California September 11, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Kent Fickett	State of California, liaison contact
Bill Yuen Lee	California Public Utilities Commission
Bill Wook	California Energy Commission
Donald Koeberlein	California Air Resources Board

Salt Lake City, Utah September 15, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Robert DonLevey	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Walter D. Ray	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jim Butler	State of Utah, Planning Coordinator's Office
Jim Butler	U.S. Forest Service
Jerry L. Smith	U.S. Forest Service
_____	State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources
Juline Christofferson	State of Utah, Planning Coordinator's Office
Charla Haley	KSL Radio Station
Roena and Roger Morton	citizens
Boyd A. Wilson	Pioneer/Arix, Consulting Engineers
Lisa-Michele Hunt	Senator Jake Garn's Office

Cedar City, Utah September 16, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Paul Ernst	citizen
Paul Dulin	citizen
Gayla M. Williams	citizen
Rance Rollins	U.S. Forest Service
William A. Sheehan	U.S. Forest Service
Michael P. Coffeen	State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources
Elwood Jensen	Department of Transportation
Leonard A. Lindenbaum	Intermountain Power Project
Terri Martin	citizen
John Williams	Five County Association of Governments
Lorin W. Pickett	citizen
Lynne Barlocker	Rural Electrical Association
Leo Barlocker	citizen
R. G. Jones	citizen
Randy Mathis	citizen
Clinton J. Hunt	Clint Hunt Storage Units
Afton S. LeFevre	Deseret News

Las Vegas, Nevada September 17, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Barbara F. Hein	Nellis Air Force Base
Jac Shaw	State of Nevada, State Land Administration
Ann Zorn	League of Women Voters
Vera Hester	citizen
Charlie L. Hester	citizen
Bob Pardon	citizen
Richard Serfas	Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning
Richard B. Holmes	Clark County Department of Comprehensive Planning
Woodroe G. Dulin	Valley Electric Association
Don Holmes	CH_2M Hill
Clay Graham	Burnup and Sims Incorporated
Michael D. Wages	citizen
Melissa Bock	Nevada Public Land Users
Paul S. Whisler	citizen
E.F. Kulas	South West Gas
Samuel Okin	citizen
Jack L. Stonehocker	Nevada Division of Colorado River Resources
Janet MacEachern	Eldorado Advisory Group
Dennis Bechtel	Clark County
R. T. Compton	citizen
Daisy J. Talvitie	League of Women Voters
Glade Koch	Las Vegas Wash Development Committee

Las Vegas, Utah September 17, 1980 (cont'd)

Michael J. Clinton	Water and Power Resources Service
R. L. Muirhead	citizen
John Arledge	Nevada Power Company
Robert Wize	U.S. Forest Service
Gary Craythorn	Nevada Power Company
Rich Hichendorf	City of Henderson

Needles, California September 18, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dennis Carter	citizen
Dick Crowe	citizen
Beverley Condrey	citizen
Angela G. Markovich	citizen
Frank Disparte	citizen
Don Holmes	CH_2M Hill
Robert Prochaska	San Bernardino County Dept. of Environmental Health Services
Milo E. Johnson	Pacific Gas and Electric
Dennis L. Wood	Pacific Gas and Electric
William C. Vaughn	Southern California Gas Company
Dave Daniel	Southern California Gas Company
E. O. Holt	Southern California Gas Company
Thomas G. Sullivan	Southern California Gas & Pacific Interstate Transmission
Clyle A. Novak	Pacific Interstate Company
Maggie McShan	citizen
Bill Yuen Lee	California Public Utilities Commission

Lone Pine, California October 14, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
Martha Proctor	Caltrans
P. H. Boyer	citizen
Ray Simmond	Kern Inyo Mono Building Trades
Rand L. Lewman	citizen
Pat Farlander	citizen
Janis and Nolan Lloyd	citizens
Wilma B. Muth	Inyo County
Walter Wilson	Inyo County
Lynn Burn	Inyo County
J. Heston	citizen
Dan Dickman	citizen
Jay Anderson	citizen
Tilly Barling	China Lake Naval Weapons Center
Matt Dill	citizen
Bob Brimmer	citizen
Vincent Yoden	citizen
Chuck Fryxell	Great Basin Unified APCD
Gerald Budlong	Inyo County
Chris Langley	citizen
Dave and Jeanne Willey	Lone Pine Gas Company
S. A. Merk	citizen
Richard McDonald	Inyo County
Katharine Connable	citizen
Margaret Nealeman	Energy Conservation
Louisa Beld	citizen
H. B. Irwin	Inyo County
Steve Boster	Inyo Register
Herbert London	citizen
V. J. Miller	citizen
Darrell Odum	citizen
Irene Cuffe	Fifth District
Don Holmes	CH_2M Hill
Tom McGill	China Lake Naval Weapons Center
Benett Kessler	Eastern Sierra News Service
Kenvey 1. Scruggs	citizen

Tonopah, Nevada October 15, 1980

No attendees

Ely, Nevada October 16, 1980

NAME	REPRESENTING
John Polish	Nevada Assemblyman
Jack Wilcox	U.S. Forest Service
Janis J. Mahoney	U.S. Senator Howard Cannon's Office
William T. Brice	Cal Gas
David Nedmond	citizen
Ron Sjogren	citizen
Sa Strong	NOOW
Mary Greeley	Daily Times
Kasandra Forbes	White Pine County Development Corp.
Nienes Petersen	citizen
Van Patton	citizen
Harvey W. Young	citizen
Carl R. Swartz	TRW, Inc.

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